

APPENDIX G. TRAINING DRILLS AND EXERCISES

Appendix 6 of the Benton County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan establishes a program of training for BCES and municipal staff and emergency responders. The program consists of a regular series of exercises to test emergency plans and procedures and evaluate the preparedness level of the County and its jurisdictions for hazard incidents.

Regular exercises are needed to test plans and procedures that are designed for hazard incidents, and to determine new procedures for hazard mitigation, preparation and response. In addition, FEMA and Washington EMD require regular reports on training and exercises performed at the local level. FEMA also has specific training and exercise requirements for some hazards which must be met by state and local jurisdictions.

G.1 Operations

All training and exercises are considered to be in the preparedness phase of emergency management.

- Exercise participation will alternate as appropriate to include both primary and secondary staff positions to ensure that all potential responders receive adequate training in emergency operations.
- A variety of exercise types will be employed to ensure that an adequate evaluation of preparedness is possible.
- Those individuals who are assigned a role for a hazard incident will participate in the training and exercise program when called upon.
- Training will be available on a local, state, and national level for those with emergency assignments.

Benton County Emergency Management (BCEM) will make every effort to ensure that members of the Emergency Operations Center staff who desire and/or require training will be able to attend classes, workshops and seminars which apply to their particular function.

BCEM will participate in large-scale exercises scheduled by the state and FEMA to the extent possible. BCEM will also prepare and conduct small-scale drills and exercises to test plans and procedures when requested by a jurisdiction.

G.2 Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

BCEM will be responsible for developing, scheduling, conducting, and evaluating those training and exercise functions required for operational readiness which are not provided by the state or FEMA.

All agencies and organizations within Benton County and its jurisdictions will ensure that their members with emergency assignments participate to the extent possible in all training and exercise opportunities.